

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A process for the preparation of amorphous
2 atorvastatin calcium by dissolving crude atorvastatin calcium in
3 an organic solvent, which comprises the step of dissolving crude
4 atorvastatin calcium in a lower alkanol containing 2-4 carbon
5 atoms or in a mixture of such alkanols under heating and, after
6 cooling, isolating the precipitated amorphous atorvastatin
7 calcium.

1 2. The process according to claim 1 wherein the lower
2 alkanol is isopropanol or ethanol or a mixture of isopropanol and
3 ethanol.

1 3. The process according to claim 1 which comprises
2 dissolving the starting material in 2-propanol or in ethanol at
3 the boiling point of the solvent.

1 4. The process according to claim 1 which comprises
2 cooling the solution and isolating the precipitated amorphous
3 atorvastatin calcium by filtration or centrifuging.